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School Committee Minutes 05/22/2007

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, May 22, 2007

Present: Susan Lovelace, Chair
Sean Garballey, Vice Chair
Jeff Thielman, Secretary
Denise Burns
Joe Curran
Sue Sheffler
Ronald Spangler

Superintendent: Nate Levenson
Asst. Supt.: Kevin Hutchinson
Sp. Ed. Director: Barbara Cataldo

Absent:

Chief Financial Off Sue Mazzarella
Student Reps.: Sean Conroy and Ella Hartenian

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Geraldine Tremblay, Chair, Board of Trustees Cyrus E. Dallin, Art Museum, Mike Healy and Maria DiGioia Co- author of Cyrus E. Dallin & his Native American Works gave a presentation to the Committee for a proposal of an outreach program in conjunction with the Arlington Public Schools curriculum.

Alicia Russell, World Language Network Member and Educational Technology Director, Northeastern University, Charlotte Pierce, President, World Language Network, with E. Palmer came to ask the district to take a comprehensive look at how we are using our World Language resources in Arlington and how in partnership with the community they can help provide quality world language education to our students.

Amy Cohen, President of Town PTO requested to be included in any discussions with the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee or other committee that is asking businesses in town for revenue that the PTO's usually solicit from, and would like to work together.

CONSENT AGENDA all items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Committee so requests, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence

**Approval of Ida Robbins Scholarships 2 - \$500.00 scholarships*

**Approval of Minutes from April 24, 2007 & May 8, 2007 and April 24, 2007 Organizational Meeting.*

*On a motion by Mr. Garballey and seconded by Mr. Spangler it was
Voted to move to approve consent agenda of Ida Robbins Scholarships, Minutes of
April 24, 2007, April 24, 2007 Organization meeting and May 8, 2007.
Vote: 7 – 0 unanimous*

*On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Garballey it was
Voted to move to approve the minutes from April 10, 2007 only by current members
Vote: 4 – 3 abstain, Ms. Lovelace Yes, Mr. Garballey Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Ms. Sheffler Yes,
Ms. Burns abstained, Mr. Curran abstained and Mr. Spangler abstained.*

*On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Spangler it was
Voted to move to the approval of warrant # 07153 in the amount of \$476,307.50
Vote: 6 – 1 Mr. Garballey abstained*

21ST CENTURY PART I

Charlie Skidmore, Principal, David Lang, Spanish Teacher, John Jannetti, Chemistry Teacher, and Peter Cushing, History Teacher all of Arlington High School spoke about the Twenty First Century Study Group consisted of parents, students, and administrators. Over the past year the group meet to discuss the research and survey work to get the district on focus.

The seven areas of focus that is important for students in the 21st century are:

1. Higher-order thinking skills through interdisciplinary learning, analysis, and synthesis of information
2. Media Literacy
3. Teamwork in a diverse, multicultural world
4. Stress and time management
5. Communication skills
6. A love of learning coupled with a willingness to work hard
7. Math, Science, Technology, and Engineering expertise

Superintendent Levenson spoke about what skills, knowledge, and habits of mind will best prepare our students for social, emotional, and vocation success and what are faculty and experts thoughts are and work together so we can provide this and also prioritize this into our budget. All are in agreement that many of our children are passionate for learning and to bring ideas and provoke discussions in the classroom and to put education more on students so they can own their own education. This will also prepare them for college and become successful as they move forward with the skills of time management and working hard to prepare them to send them off to college.

The committee looks forward in hearing the presentation on Part II of the 21st Century Education Summary Report.

WELLNESS POLICY UPDATE

Cindy Bouvier reviewed to committee the Wellness Policy that was mandated in 2005 from Congress that established guidelines for nutrition, physical activity, and wellness. The School Committee approved the plan that has been created by a group of parents, teachers, food service staff, administration, students and school board members in July of 2006. Now the group is working on the implementation plan of the policy and would like it fully implemented by the start of 2007- 2008 school year. The suggested healthy snacks list that has been presented and implemented in all of the schools has been very positive.

The Support of the Superintendent and School Committee members for Physical Education is much appreciated. The Nurses, Principals, and teachers of each school have also been part of this healthy wellness program and have participated in professional development that is then passed on to the students. The food service professionals Denise Boucher and Rob Rice have noticed a slight decrease in revenue at the High School level but the by eliminating the fatty snacks, and soda they are still running at cost neutral. Portion size for each elementary, middle school and high school level are being looked into as well as publishing nutritional data on our website.

Mr. Spangler appreciated all the work that it has taken by many to get the Wellness Policy to where it is today, understands pressures of educators, and feels parents would prefer more physical activity to instruction. Ms. Bouvier stated meetings have already taken place with Nurses and physical education teachers to discuss next year units and have agreed to continue nutrition, physical activity and safety units of the Great Body Shop within the elementary K-5 and this will increase physical activity time during the months.

The committee and Superintendent was impressed with the implementation of the Wellness Program and thanked Ms. Bouvier, Ms. Boucher, Mr. Rice and Ms. Wallis and others for working together to bridge both sides and make this policy a reality.

AYHSC UPDATE

Patsy Kramer, Co-Chair Coalition and Christine Connolly, Director of Health & Human Services, Co-Chair of Coalition presented the committee with data and gave a brief history of the past year. With the two recent deaths, of students at Arlington High School, this was a red flag to form a Coalition in Arlington. The vision of the Arlington Youth Health and Safety Coalition is that all members of the Arlington community actively support both mental health needs and substance abuse prevention, and that we work together to foster a safe environment in which youth are valued and in which youth engage in healthy behaviors as a preferred choice while having the resources to do so. The Mission is to increase mental health supports and reduce substance abuse and other risk behaviors that adversely affect Arlington Youth by building on a strategic prevention framework.

The Coalition is committed to

- Engaging the community
- Informing the community
- Empowering the community

The School Committee appreciates all the work the Coalition has done and the members are committed to the youth of

Arlington and are willing to help out in anyway.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

The Superintendent made reference to his report that was included in each member of the school committee's packet.

The Massachusetts School choice Law: MGL Chapter 76, Section 12B

To allow parents to send their children to public schools in communities other than the one in which they reside.

The committee asked questions on the benefits and disadvantages of School Choice and the discussion was to vote No in making Arlington a Choice School and to rethink this until next year when we can revote this.

***On a motion by Mr. Garballey and seconded by Mr. Curran it was
Voted to move to vote NO on proposal School Choice for academic school year
2007-2008.***

Vote: 7:0 unanimous

***On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Curran it was
Motioned to approve the Job description of Director of Purchasing & Cost Containment position.***

Ms. Burns asked to include the motion that was approved on 5/08/2007 school committee meeting relating to the Director of Purchasing /Cost Containment to include advertising sales.

*On a motion by Mr. Curran and seconded by Mr. Garballey it was
Motioned to amend the above motion of Director of Purchasing & Cost Containment Job Description if the position read MCPPO certified required and School Business Administrator License preferred.*

Superintendent does not support the change to be certified due to the pool of people certified are limited. Most employees below the CFO are not certified, but the qualifications would be critical. Ms. Lovelace does encourage MCPPO certified and noted it is common standard practice not to be certified.

Mr. Spangler does support Joe's motion and would like to see his motion amended to read willingness to become MCCPO certified within six months of being hired and responsible for advertising and other revenue generated

Ms. Lovelace added to make this read MCCPO certified by within six months six months and responsible for advertising and other revenue generated

Mr. Thielman does not support Mr. Curran's motion because law does not require certification and noted Administration can hire who they feel are qualified.

Ms. Burns supports Mr. Curran's motion regarding certification and level of director was also raise, and again noted to add in the previous motion from School committee meeting May 8, 2007 to be responsible for advertising.

Ms. Sheffler noted that this is a justified position and would like this to go smoothly.

*On a motion by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Garballey is was
Voted to amend the motion to approve the job description of the Director of Purchasing & Cost Containment Description with the following three amendments: to be MCPPO certified within 6 months and School Business Administer License preferred, Purchasing & Cost Containment Manager and to include the advertising and other revenue generation within the Policy & Procedures of the town and district.
Vote: 7:0 unanimous*

*On a motion by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Curran it was
Voted to move to approve the job description as amended.
Vote: 6-1 Ms. Burns No, motion passes*

CHAIRS REPORT

Arlington School Committee's attorney Stoneman, Chandler & Miller, LLP presented the next three-year contract.

*On a motion by Mr. Thielman and Ms. Sheffler it was
Voted to approve the Contract Extension for School Committee Attorney Stoneman, Chandler & Miller, LLP.
Vote: 5-2 Mr. Curran and Ms. Burns with No votes, motion passes*

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Spangler reported on the subcommittee meeting prior to tonight's school Committee meeting that the subcommittee amended the JFABA policy. Mr. Spangler noted the strikeouts are for deletion and the underlines are additions to the policy.

*On a motion by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Thielman it was
Voted to suspend the adoption policy BJB policy
Vote: 7:0 unanimous*

*On a motion by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Thielman it was voted
To move to revise the Kindergarten Fee Policy JFABA Policy as presented
Vote: 7:0 unanimous*

Ms. Burns asked Superintendent Levenson, and he agreed, to edit worded in the Full Day Kindergarten Fee Schedule to make each statement clear for all.

*On a motion by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Curran it was
Voted to move to adopt the Fee Schedule for the Full Day Kindergarten, with Superintendent to edit the language, and to have the superintendent approve the fee structure and payment plan for 2007-2008 school year.
Vote: 7:0 unanimous*

*On a motion by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Curran it was
Voted to move to direct the Policies and Procedures subcommittee to work with the Board of Selectmen and Town Counsel to draft a Warrant Article to amend the Zoning bylaw to permit the sale and display of advertisements by the School Department on School property.
Vote 7:0 unanimous*

*On motion by Mr. Garballey and seconded by Mr. Thielman it was
Voted to move the 11:00 rule for fifteen minutes
Vote 7 – 0 unanimous*

*On a motion by Mr. Ron Spangler and seconded by Mr. Thielman it was
Voted to move to have Budget Subcommittee study and to do an estimate of the revenues that could be generated from the sales of advertising.
Vote: 7 – 0 unanimous*

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Sheffler wanted to remind the School Committee of the Summit Meeting on June 14, 2007 from 7-9 PM. As the liaison with the Selectmen and School Committee a discussion on joint meeting is being looked into for sometime in July and November.

*On a motion by Mr. Garballey and seconded by Mr. Thielman it was
Voted to move to refer the Dallin Museums proposal to the Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee.
Mr. Garballey amended the motion to refer the Dallin museums proposal to meet with Assistant Superintendent Hutchinson and report back to the full committee by October 1, 2007
Vote: 7 – 0 unanimous*

*On a motion by Mr. Garballey and seconded by Ms. Burns it was
Voted to move the Community Relations Subcommittee meet with Arlington Children Theater Director.
Vote: 7 – 0 unanimous
Discussion continued on the fees schedule on athletics. Ms. Burns noted that the actually family cap could be reached by one family member, if they are participating in three of the highest cost sports.*

*On a motion by Mr. Garballey and seconded by Mr. Curran it was
Voted to move to refer the issue of fees to the Budget subcommittee to look at new ways to raise revenues necessary to reduce the fees. And Ms. Burns would like to amend the motion to have the spreadsheet that was sent to Superintendent filled out by date certain, June 8, 2007 and subcommittee report back all information by the first school committee meeting in September 2007.
Vote: 7- 0 unanimous*

*On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Garballey it was
Voted to move to direct Superintendent and staff to consider including a study of the of foreign language program as presented by World Language Network as an element of the goals and present this to School Committee on or before Oct 1, 2007
Vote: 7 – 0 unanimous*

Mr. Curran and Mr. Garballey suggested sending all Rotary Club receipts of awards a letter from the School Committee.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Thielman reviewed all correspondence.

Ms. Lovelace reminded all members to submit summer schedules as soon as possible.

On a motion by Ms. Sheffler and seconded by Mr. Thielman

It voted to move the second School Committee Meeting of the month on June 26 and reschedule it to Thursday, June 21, 2007.

Vote 7:0 unanimous

ADJOURN

It was unanimously voted to move to Executive Session then to return only to adjourn

Vote: 7 – 0 Roll Call, Mr. Spangler Yes, Ms. Sheffler Yes, Mr. Curran Yes, Ms. Burns Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Garballey Yes, Ms. Lovelace Yes

Adjourn at 11:35 PM

Submitted by

Karen Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

School Committee